

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)      A thermally sprayed article comprising:  
an article substrate;  
an inner layer of a metal material thermally sprayed on said article substrate  
and having a first predetermined thickness; and  
an outer layer of a composite made of a polymer material and the metal  
material flame sprayed on said inner layer and having a second predetermined thickness, said  
outer layer having a hardness less than said inner layer.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)      A thermally sprayed article comprising:  
an article substrate;  
an inner layer of a metal material thermally sprayed on said article substrate  
and having a first predetermined thickness; and  
an outer layer of a composite made of a polymer material and the metal  
material flame sprayed on said inner layer and having a second predetermined thickness,  
wherein said second predetermined thickness is less than said first predetermined thickness,  
said outer layer having a hardness less than said inner layer.

3. (CANCELED)

4. (CANCELED)

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A thermally sprayed article comprising:  
an article substrate;

an inner layer of a metal material thermally sprayed on said article substrate;

and

an outer layer of a composite made of a polymer material and the metal material flame sprayed on said inner layer, the polymer material and the metal material being co-deposited to form said outer layer, wherein said outer layer has a hardness less than said inner layer.

6. (CANCELED)

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A thermally sprayed article comprising:  
an article substrate;

an inner layer of a metal material thermally sprayed on said article substrate

and having a first predetermined thickness; and

an outer layer of a composite made of a polymer material and the metal material flame sprayed on said inner layer, the polymer material and the metal material being co-deposited to form said outer layer and having a second predetermined thickness less than said first predetermined thickness, said outer layer having a hardness less than said inner layer.